

“From law enforcement training to equipment upgrades, there are many ways in which the federal government can assist those on our front lines.” – Rush Holt

Providing for America’s common defense is a Constitutional duty, and Rep. Holt has worked to ensure that New Jersey law enforcement and first responders have the tools and resources necessary to do their jobs effectively..

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Promoting Transit Security

Many thousands of Central New Jersey residents commute daily on NJ Transit, SEPTA, or Amtrak. As a frequent Amtrak rider, Rep. Holt understands the need for improvements in our transit security and infrastructure. He has consistently pushed for higher funding levels for the federal rail and transit security grant programs in the Department of Homeland Security.

Since 2007, Rep. Holt has helped secure more than a billion dollars for improved rail security measures nationwide. He has continued his fight for the funding needed to prevent America’s rail and transit system from suffering the kinds of attacks seen in Madrid, London, and Mumbai over the last several years. During debate on the Fiscal Year 2012 and 2013 Department of Homeland Security funding bills, Rep. Holt offered amendments to increase rail and transit security funding. Although both amendments were defeated, Rep. Holt was successful in blocking the House majority’s efforts to eliminate rail and transit security funding. He will continue to fight for proper funding for rail and transit security.

Supporting First Responders

Rep. Holt understands that our nation's first responders serve on the front lines of domestic disasters and therefore must be able to quickly coordinate and take action in any crisis – be it an Atlantic hurricane or a terrorist attack. Rep. Holt has worked to provide those who serve with the essential tools and resources to do their jobs.

Rep. Holt has been a strong supporter of the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) program and the Justice Assistance Grant Program, two of the federal government's most successful support programs for first responders.

Rep. Holt also has held grant workshops to help local first responders secure federal funding. As a result, fire departments, like those in Middletown, Monroe, Oceanport, and Rumson, have received federal grant funding. Additionally, Rep. Holt has secured federal funding to help local law enforcement upgrade their equipment.

Preventing Bioterrorism

Many New Jersey residents had their lives disrupted by the anthrax attacks of 2001 and have since followed the investigation into the attacks, which evidently originated from a postal box in Princeton Borough. Rep. Holt believes that all people affected by the attacks – the victims' families, post office employees, local law enforcement, and the general public - deserve to know the truth about what happened, and get closure. Rep. Holt has worked tirelessly to get answers from the Federal Bureau of Investigation on its poorly handled investigation. He has introduced the Anthrax Attacks Investigation Act, which would create a 9/11 type commission to investigate the anthrax attacks and the federal government's response to and investigation of the attacks. The bipartisan commission also would make recommendations to the president and Congress to both prevent and better the response to future bioterrorism attacks.

Preventing and Recovering from Floods

Multiple counties in New Jersey—including several in Holt's district—have been declared federal disaster areas over the last decade because of severe, frequent flooding. From Kingwood to Trenton to South River, thousands of central New Jersey residents have seen their homes and businesses ruined by these floods, which are undoubtedly being driven in part by global climate change that is producing more frequent and severe weather across our country.

Rep. Holt fought successfully to ensure that all residents of Central New Jersey would be eligible for assistance to recover and rebuild in the wake of Hurricane Irene and Hurricane Sandy. Further, to help residents prepare for and cope with such natural calamities, Rep. Holt voted to extend the National Flood Insurance Program. The bill was signed by President Obama

Rep. Holt successfully added \$2 million to the House-passed Fiscal Year 2013 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers budget for comprehensive flood protection to help mitigate the damage from future floods, hurricanes, and other natural disasters. Many Corps projects are already underway across the nation to ensure disaster readiness, including New Jersey projects at Raritan Bay and Sandy Hook Bay in Middletown Township and at the Green Brook Sub-Basin of the Raritan River Basin.

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